

# U. S. NOT PARTICIPATING IN THE GENOA CONFERENCE

**Decision Declining Invitation Has Been Handed to Senator Ricci, the Italian Ambassador—Communication States That the United States Deems It Inadvisable to Participate in Any General European Economic Conference at This Time—Participation of Russia is Said to be Another Reason For the United States Declining to Enter the Conference—America's Refusal Has Caused Disappointment in Europe.**

Washington, March 8.—(By the A. P.)—The United States government has declined the invitation to participate in the Genoa conference.

The decision was made by the American government after a long and careful consideration of the situation. It was found that the conference was not a purely economic one, but a political one, and that the United States could not participate in it without compromising its principles.

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## CABLED PARAGRAPHS

**Storm of Wide Area in Europe.**  
Paris, March 8.—Telegraphic communication with Rome, Havre, England, Switzerland and Italy, is badly interrupted by the storm which prevails over a wide area.

**German Toy Manufacturers Busy.**  
Leipzig, March 8.—(By the A. P.)—Americans are finding it difficult to close commercial deals here owing to the German attitude against the sale of toys. German toy manufacturers are busy for a year. Others are declining further orders, saying they cannot assure deliveries.

**RADIO OPERATOR JESTED AS HE SANK WITH SHIP.**  
New York, March 8.—The grim humor of a wireless operator who laughed at death and flashed striking bits of wit into the ether as his ship, the Norwegian steamer Grontoft, sailed and sank during a mid-Atlantic hurricane last Thursday, was recorded on the radio log of the Danish steamer Estonia, arriving today.

Each detail of the ship's plight, each call for aid, was supplemented by the jesting comment of the radio man, who said that the ship was "sinking" and that he was "going to the bottom of the sea." His last message, a disjointed one, was "The ship is sinking—death as the butt of the joke."

The Estonia, herself hard hit in the 110 mile gale, made a valiant attempt to reach the Grontoft, which first sent out calls for aid at 10 o'clock last Thursday morning, reporting her position as about 700 miles east of Cape Race. The Estonian at that time was forty-eight miles west of the disabled Norwegian and steaming in an opposite direction. Captain H. J. Jorgensen ordered his ship about and steamed slowly toward the Grontoft.

Meanwhile Radio Operator Hansen engaged the operator of the Grontoft in a friendly conversation. He sent out first the following—a stereotyped irony of the sea:

"Good pity the poor sailor on a night like this. Then followed a series of 'Ha, ha, ha.'"

"And so," he continued, "the old man thinks I am a good fellow. 'Ha, ha, ha.' 'We sure need some breeze.' 'A hour later an urgent call for aid was sent out by the Grontoft, and her operator, Jorgensen, said: 'We are sinking. We are sinking. We are sinking.'"

"Well, the steward is making sandwiches for the lifeboats. Looks like we were going on a picnic." "The old man," he continued, "is a good fellow. 'Ha, ha, ha.' 'We sure need some breeze.' 'A hour later an urgent call for aid was sent out by the Grontoft, and her operator, Jorgensen, said: 'We are sinking. We are sinking. We are sinking.'"

"What damn of lanes brought thee forth, To just at dawn with death?" "Six hours after picking up the first call from the Grontoft, the Estonia reached her reported position and though the storm had subsided, the ship failed to find even a trace of wreckage. The Grontoft, from Galveston, New Orleans and Norfolk, was en route for New York. She had a crew of thirty.

**WARRANT ISSUED FOR ARREST OF WALTER A. UNGER.**  
Philadelphia, March 8.—Notice of the issuance of a warrant for the arrest of Walter A. Unger, fugitive assistant treasurer of the Evans Dental Institute of Philadelphia, was issued today by the United States marshal at Philadelphia. The warrant was issued on the basis of a complaint filed by the United States attorney at Philadelphia.

**NO RETIREMENT PENSION FOR 20 PER CENT GOVT EMPLOYEES.**  
Washington, March 8.—Approximately twenty per cent of the government employees in the classified civil service are barred from pension benefits of the retirement act under an opinion by Attorney General Daugherty transmitted to Secretary of Interior Fall, who administers the act.

**ENCOUNTERED ICE FIELD OFF NEWFOUNDLAND COAST.**  
St. John's, N. F., March 8.—An ice encounter delayed the ship, the Norwegian steamer Grontoft, which arrived here today. The ship left Cardiff on January 28 with a cargo of coal for St. John's. Since the departure from Cardiff she had been prevented from coming in by the heavy ice field off the Newfoundland coast. Provisions were nearly exhausted and the ship was in a desperate situation.

**SITUATION IN LIMERICK REPORTED AS TRANQUIL.**  
Limerick, March 8.—(By the A. P.)—The situation remained tranquil, notwithstanding the fact that further forces of Irish republican army men arrived from Kilkenny.

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